Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-13, 15-16, and 18-20 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for filtering a highly pressurized fluid, comprising:

a vertical housing having a transparent outer cover, a fluid inlet for communicating a highly pressurized fluid into said housing, and a fluid outlet for communicating said highly pressurized fluid downstream of said housing;

a filter element disposed within said housing between said fluid inlet and said fluid outlet for filtering said fluid;

a fluid impervious cover covering at least an upper portion of said filter element;

a relief valve mounted in a top of said filter element, and said relief valve opening at a predetermined pressure; and

said outer cover of said housing and said cover of said filter element ~~having a~~ forming a lower predetermined volume ~~of air~~ and an upper predetermined volume captured therebetween, wherein the ~~volume air is determine~~ ratio of said lower predetermined volume to said upper predetermined volume is at least substantially 2.7, and wherein the volume of air between said outer cover of said housing and said cover of said filter element when said fluid is supplied to said housing is determined by the relationship PV= nRT, where P is pressure, V is volume, n is the number of molecules, R equals the gas constant, and T is the temperature, such that the level of fluid within said housing provides a visual indicator as to the overall condition of the filter element.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus stated in claim 1, further comprising:

~~said outer cover of said housing and said cover of said filter element substantially coaxially positioned with respect to one another wherein the spacing between said outer cover of said housing and said cover of said filter element is less at an upper portion of said housing than at a lower portion of said housing~~ said level of said fluid rising above said lower predetermined volume between said cover of said housing and said cover of said filter element when said filter element is substantially clean.

3. (Original) The apparatus stated in claim 1, further comprising:

said outer cover of said housing having integral ribs formed therein for structurally supporting said outer cover.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus stated in claim 1, said fluid further comprising:

a ~~convention~~ conventional diesel fuel.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus stated in claim 4, further comprising:

said diesel fuel pressurized between ~~substantially~~ approximately 116 psi and approximately 188 psi.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus stated in claim 5, further comprising:

said volume of air ranging between ~~substantially~~ approximately 3.65 cubic inches and approximately 2.25 cubic inches.

7. (Original) The apparatus stated in claim 1, said fluid further comprising:

a conventional motor oil.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus stated in claim 7, further comprising:

said motor oil pressurized between ~~substantially~~ approximately 60 psi and approximately 80 psi.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus stated in claim 8, further comprising:

said volume of air ranging between ~~substantially~~ approximately 4.06 cubic inches and approximately 3.04 cubic inches.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus stated in claim 1, further comprising:

~~a thermocouple coupled to said relief valve, and said thermocouple maintaining said relief valve in a closed position when the temperature within said housing is below a predetermined temperature~~ said top of said filter element having an aperture whereby said relief valve opens and closes said aperture in response to a predetermined pressure differential across said filter element; and

a strip of thermal sensitive material having one end connected to said top of said filter element and a second end having a seal connected thereto, and said strip moving from a sealed, closed position, wherein said strip contracts when the temperature within said housing is below a predetermined temperature such that said seal closes said aperture, and an open position, wherein said strip expands when the temperature within said housing is above a predetermined temperature such that said seal disengages said aperture.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for filtering a highly pressurized fluid, the steps comprising:

providing a vertical housing having a transparent outer cover, a fluid inlet, and a fluid outlet;

providing a filter element within said housing between said fluid inlet and said fluid outlet wherein said filter element has a fluid impervious cover covering at least an upper

portion of said filter element;

mounting a relief valve on top of said filter element, and said relief valve opening at a predetermined pressure;

establishing a lower and upper predetermined volume ~~of air~~ within said housing between said outer cover of said housing and said cover of said filter element wherein the ~~volume of air is determined by the relationship PV= nRT, wherein P is pressure, V is volume, n is the number of molecules, R equals the gas constant, and T is the temperature~~ ratio of said lower predetermined volume to said upper predetermined volume is at least substantially 2.7; and

supplying a highly pressurized fluid to said fuel inlet and allowing said pressurized fuel to exit through said fuel outlet wherein a volume of air is determined within said housing by the relationship PV=nRT, wherein P is pressure, V is volume, n is the number of molecules, R equals the gas constant, and T is the temperature, and wherein a level of said fluid within said housing provides a visual indicator as to the overall condition of the filter element.

12. (Currently Amended) The method stated in claim 11, wherein the steps further comprise:

~~spacing said outer cover of said housing and said cover of said filter element at a lesser distance between one another at an upper portion of said housing as compared to a lower portion of said housing~~ establishing said level of said fluid above said lower predetermined volume in said housing when said filter element is substantially clean.

13. (Currently Amended) The method stated in claim 11, wherein the steps further comprise:

structurally supporting said upper cover of said housing with integral ribs formed therein.

14. (Original) The method stated in claim 11, wherein the steps further comprise:

providing a conventional diesel fuel as said fluid.

15. (Currently Amended) The method stated in claim 14, wherein the steps further comprise:

pressurizing said diesel fuel between approximately 116 psi and approximately 188 psi.

16. (Currently Amended) The method stated in claim 15, wherein the steps further comprise:

~~providing~~ establishing said volume of air in a range between approximately 3.65 cubic inches and approximately 2.25 cubic inches.

17. (Original) The method stated in claim 11, wherein the steps further comprise:

providing a conventional motor oil as said fluid.

18. (Currently Amended) The method stated in claim 17, wherein the steps further comprise:

pressurizing said motor oil between approximately 60 psi and approximately 80 psi.

19. (Currently Amended) The method stated in claim 18, wherein the steps further comprise:

~~providing~~ establishing said volume of air in a range between approximately 4.06 cubic inches and approximately 3.04 cubic inches.

20. (Currently Amended) The method stated in claim 11, wherein the steps further comprise:

~~providing a thermocouple coupled to said relief valve while maintaining said relief valve in a closed position when the temperature within said housing is below a predetermined temperature~~ providing an aperture in said top of said filter element whereby said relief valve opens and closes said aperture in response to a predetermined pressure differential across said filter element; and

providing a strip of thermal sensitive material connected to said top of said filter element and having a seal connected thereto, wherein said strip contracts in response to when the temperature within the housing is below a predetermined temperature such that said seal engages and closes said aperture, and wherein said strip expands in response to the temperature within the housing being above a predetermined temperature such that said seal disengages said aperture.